

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
 AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DESIGN PATENT

SAH
 #3A

Applicant: Kruse et al.
 Serial No.: To Be Assigned 09/868283
 Filed: 6-15-01
 Title: METHOD FOR DARKENING A
 SUPERFICIAL LAYER WHICH
 CONTAINS ZINC AND WHICH IS OF A
 MATERIAL PIECE

Docket No.: 27153.2400 9-27-01
 Art Unit: To Be Assigned 1741
 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned leader

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT
 Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

A1
 5. (Amended) Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 3 [or 4,]
 characterized by being carried out at a pH value exceeding 13.

6. (Amended) Process according to [one of the Claims from] Claim 3
 [to 5,] characterized by anodic oxidation being executed during a period of treatment
 (t) of between 1 second to 10 minutes.

A2
 8. (Amended) Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 3 [to 7,]
 characterized by being carried out with direct voltage.

A3
 11. (Amended) Process according to [one of the Claims from] Claim 8
 [to 10,] characterized by the dipping bath containing from 25 to 35 g/l NaOH and
 from 30 to 50 g/l NaNO₃ or Na₂B₄O₇.

A4
 13. (Amended) Process according to [one of the claims from] Claim 3 [to
 7,] characterized by being carried out with alternating voltage.

A5
 15. (Amended) Process according to Claim 13 [or 14,] characterized by
 the dipping bath containing from 10 to 35 g/l NaOH and from 30 to 60 g/l NaNO₃ or
 Na₂B₄O₇.

A6
 17. (Amended) Process according to [one of the Claims] Claim 13 [to
 16,] characterized by the dipping bath containing from 10 to 15 g/l of NaOH and
 from 10 to 60 g/l of an alkali salt being selected from among the group comprising
 phosphates, acetates, carbonates, sulphates, oxalates, citrates, and borates of alkali
 metals.